(c) whether Government would take the help of farmers' organizations, Gram Sabhas and the private sector on establishment of such zones to herald on second green revolution in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No proposal for setting up of Special Agriculture Zones on the lines of Special Economic Zones has been received from Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the Ministry of Agriculture;

Suicides in Vidarbha

3998. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers' suicides in Vidarbha has crossed 100 in first 40 days of 2007;

(b) what are the figures for 2007 in different parts of the country; and

(c) how much grant has been given to Maharashtra Government as a part of the package to Vidarbha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Productivity of pulses and minor cereals

3999. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to increase the productivity of pulses and minor cereals like barley, corn, bajra, etc. and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and by when we can reach the international standards for productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Government of India is implementing

a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) in 14 major pulses growing States and 15 major corn (maize) growing States for increasing the production and productivity of pulses and maize respectively. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for various critical inputs to the farmers through State Departments of Agriculture. In order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Departments of Agriculture and Frontline Demonstrations through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

To increase the production and productivity of cereal crops including barley, bajra etc., the following crop production oriented programmes are implemented under the Macro Management Mode of Agriculture:—

(i) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice);

(ii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Wheat); and

(iii) Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals).

Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for seeds, propagation of improved technology, Integrated pest management, training of farmers including women, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system, etc.

All the schemes/programmes mentioned above are intended to enhance productivity of these crops.

Krishi Vikas Kendras in Bihar and Maharashtra

4000. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vikas Kendras working in Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) whether Governments of respective States have sent proposals for setting up of more Krishi Vikas Kendra in their States; and